

so few people have really taken the plunge and followed/read Knuth, one of the truly great minds of the 20th century?

The author then offers to take the reader on a trip (!) down one particular path, all the way down to the very bowels of  $\text{\TeX}$ . Not another overview but a roll-up-your-sleeves encounter. The author proposes to study how a word (as viewed by  $\text{\TeX}$ ) is handled, from just being read by  $\text{\TeX}$ , to its trip through paragraphing and hyphenation, passing by such vast topics as macro expansion, insertions, math mode, and tables, just to name a few. The challenge is to give the reader a taste for more such adventures and a desire to discover hidden treasures along the way.

Perhaps a fanciful introduction, but who says talking about programming can't be playful!

[Summary of author's introductory paragraphs]

YVON HENEL, Comment commenter?

Commentaires et parties optionnelles [How to comment? Comments and optional bits]; pp. 54–82

How to position/place comments in a source file, how to deal with optional bits and obtain/produce a multi-purpose document.

The packages `verbatim`, `comment`, `versions`, and `optional` are presented.

Examples of `docstrip` usage.

[Translation of author's abstract]

TWG-TDS WORKING GROUP, TDS: une structure de répertoires pour les fichiers  $\text{\TeX}$  [TDS: A directory structure for  $\text{\TeX}$  files]; pp. 83–114

This is the unofficial French translation of v.1.1 of the TDS document “A directory structure for  $\text{\TeX}$  files”, which originally appeared in English. This translation, by Jean-Côme Charpentier, is based on the one done originally in 1999 of v.0.9996 of the TDS, in collaboration with Vincent Vaquin.

The text is prefaced by a note from the translator (Charpentier), and concludes with a postface by Fabrice Popineau.

In his translator's preface, Charpentier provides the *raison d'être* for the TDS and its work, in the form of two of the questions that very quickly come to the fore when  $\text{\TeX}$  users begin to explore the possibilities of adding new stuff to their machines: “Where do I put X so that  $\text{\TeX}$  stops complaining that it can't find it?!” followed very soon after by “Where do I put X so that my machine doesn't become some kind of infernal bazaar?!”

To address this, two things have to happen: first, all that stuff has to get organised in some kind of logical way so that users can find things; second, it would be good if everyone could be encouraged to organise things in the same way.

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Editor's note: *Les Cahiers GUTenberg* is the journal of GUT, the French  $\text{\TeX}$  user group. Their web site is <http://www.gutenberg.eu.org>.

YANNIS HARALAMBOUS, Voyage au centre de  $\text{\TeX}$ : composition, paragraphage, césure [Voyage to the center of  $\text{\TeX}$ : Composition, paragraphs, hyphenation]; pp. 3–53

The author begins his “voyage” by asking why it is that, after all the care that Knuth took to make reading and learning about  $\text{\TeX}$  an enjoyable experience, using wit and charm, information and explanations in small readable chunks, all organised in a way that focusses on teaching rather than just following the order of the code itself—why is it that

Not very lengthy, the TDS document also provides explanations as to why certain choices are made, and what the consequences are of making this or that choice. By the end, the reader has not only a sense of what the TDS is all about, but it also then forces one to think more consciously about what kinds of packages and such are being added, and where they would logically be best stored.

Charpentier concludes rather wryly that as long as the TDS documentation was only in English, French-speaking users could avoid dealing with the whole issue of organisation and structure. With this translation, they no longer have that excuse to hide behind.

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Where Charpentier's preface introduces the TDS document as it stood in 1999, Popineau's postface muses on its real-life implications from the perspective of 2004. The two texts therefore nicely bracket the TDS text itself. Fabrice Popineau, well known for having developed the  $\TeX$  implementation for PCs called  $\text{fp}\TeX$ , is a most appropriate person, then, to write an appreciation, as it were, of the TDS.

The postface begins by setting the context of the time, before the TDS came into existence, and brings the reader then through to the present day, where factors of great importance in the 1990s are less significant. Which leads to the question of just how useful and pertinent the TDS is today. While Popineau believes that, in its present form, it is much less critical than previously, his postface then proceeds to present several suggestions which would see more clearly defined (and thus more strict) requirements of packages, which would then make it possible to automatically manage the adding, updating, removing, and validating of packages.

[Summary of preface and postface]

GYÖNGYI BUJDOSO AND FERENC WETTL,  
Adapter  $\TeX$  à la langue hongroise [On the  
Localization of  $\TeX$  in Hungary]; p. 115

This paper deals with the present and future of the localization of  $\TeX$  in Hungary. The authors review some of the necessary tools for preparing Hungarian documents, and especially the improvements needed to make  $\TeX$  more usable in Hungary. Some of the work has been done, and a short 'to do' list will be presented for work to be done in the near future. The problems stemming from the specialities of Hungarian grammar (e.g., hyphenation, handling definite articles and suffixes) will be considered as well as the tasks implied by the heritage of Hungarian typography (e.g., page layout).<sup>1</sup>

[Author's abstract (edited)]

[Compiled by Christina Thiele]

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<sup>1</sup> This text originally appeared in English in the 2002 TUG proceedings (*TUGboat*, 23(1), pp. 21–26). The French translation was done by Jean-Michel Hufflen.